

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CONAKR 01064 01 OF 02 201633Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----014189 201643Z /47

P 201550Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3154

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CONAKRY 1064

EXDIS

FOR AF/W THOMAS SMITH

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: SHUM GV
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION

REF: (A) CONAKRY 1013, (B) CONAKRY 1012, (C) PARIS 17316
(D) STATE 133840, (E) STATE 131943, (F) CONAKRY 0990
(G) STATE 138381

1. IN VIEW RECENT DEBATE ON GUINEA'S HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE (REFTELS) QUESTION ARISES WHICH ALLEGATIONS CAN BE PROVED? DIRECT OBSERVABLE VERIFICATION OF MOST SERIOUS ABUSES OF INTEGRITY OF PERSON --TORTURE, CRUEL PUNISHMENT, ARBITRARY ARREST-- IS HARDEST TO OBTAIN LOCALLY. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT SUCH ABUSES HAVE OCCURRED BUT QUANTIFICATION--HOW MANY PRISONERS OR INSTANCES OF TORTURE-- CAN ONLY BE IMPRECISELY GUESSED. THEY VARY SOMEWHAT WITH THE INTERNAL POLITICAL CLIMATE AT A GIVEN MOMENT. BASIC CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES ARE EMBODIED IN THE GUINEAN CONSTITUTION-- FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, MOVEMENT, ASSEMBLY -- BUT IN PRACTICE GUINEA'S SYSTEM DENIES, LIMITS OR REDEFINES THEM; THIS IS READILY EVIDENT FROM EMPIRICAL OBSERVATION AND GOG STATEMENTS THEMSELVES. GOG IS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CONAKR 01064 01 OF 02 201633Z

MITTED TO PROVIDING BASIC NEEDS FOR FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION; EVIDENT FAILURES IN THESE AREAS STEM NOT SO MUCH FROM INEQUALITY OR CALLOUSNESS AS FROM CHRONIC DYSFUNCTIONALITY OF GUINEA'S NON-MARKET INTERNAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM. SEKOU TOURE HAS NOT RPT NOT HAD THE REPUTATION OF BEING AMONG AFRICA'S MOST CORRUPT OR VENAL LEADERS; ELITE CORRUPTION IS VISIBLY LIMITED BY THREAT

OF DRASTIC PUNISHMENT, BUT EVIDENCE IS FRAGMENTARY.

2. MOST DIRECT EVIDENCE AVAILABLE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS TESTIMONY OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN THE WEST WHO HAVE SURVIVED GUINEAN IMPRISONMENT AND HAVE MADE THEIR EXPERIENCES PUBLIC. THE UN REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FOR EXAMPLE (NOT YET AVAILABLE HERE) SEEMS FROM NEWS ACCOUNTS TO BE THE MOST SYSTEMATIC COLLECTION OF PERSONAL TESTIMONY TO DATE. IT IS LIKELY TO BE THE BASIS OF FURTHER PUBLIC AND DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE AND PRESUMABLY CAN BE DRAWN ON BY USG FOR SPECIFICS. THIS INFO HOWEVER PROBABLY DATES FROM BEFORE JULY 14, 1975 WHEN THE LAST FOREIGNERS (EXCEPT A FEW DUAL NATIONALS) WERE RELEASED AND MAY NOT REFLECT CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN EVERY RESPECT.

3. IT WOULD BE HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE TO DECLASSIFY ANY PART OF EMBASSY'S A-10 BECAUSE (1) IT WAS LARGELY BASED ON SENSITIVE INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO THE EMBASSY BY NON-AMERICAN SOURCES ON THE PROMISE IT WOULD BE PROTECTED; (2) DISCLOSURE WOULD RISK EXPOSING, EMBARRASSING, OR ENDANGERING THESE SOURCES SINCE INFORMED GUINEANS COULD WELL DETECT WHO THEY WERE FROM THE NATURE OF THE MATERIAL, PARTICULARLY IF GIVEN ANY SORT OF USG ATTRIBUTION; (3) OTHER PARTS OF AIRGRAM MAKE JUDGEMENTS ABOUT U.S. POLICY NOT MEANT FOR GUINEAN READERS; (4) SEKOU TOURE IS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CONAKR 01064 01 OF 02 201633Z

CERTAIN TO REACT EMOTIONALLY, VIOLENTLY AND IRRATIONALLY TO ANY EVIDENCE THAT -- AS HE IS BEGINNING TO SUSPECT-- USG MAY BE CONSPIRING TO MAKE PUBLIC TROUBLE FOR HIM OVER WHAT HE PERCEIVES (REFTELS A,B) AS LEGITIMATE SUPPRESSION OF WAR CRIMINALS AND TRAITORS.

4. PRIVATE "QUIET DIPLOMACY" HUMAN-RIGHTS DIALOGUE WITH GOG IS POSSIBLE (AND IS SHAPING UP, SEE REFTEL (B)) BUT ANY PUBLICLY CRITICAL USG OFFICIALS STATEMENT AT PRESENT IS LIABLE TO WRECK IT, GREATLY COMPLICATING US'S PAINSTAKING EFFORTS TO INDUCE MORE GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT AND OPENNESS IN WHAT HAS BEEN HERETOFORE HEAVILY SOVIET-INFLUENCED RADICAL STATE.

5. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION: A YEAR OF RELATIVE CALM AND STABILITY HAS ENSUED SINCE LIMITED PURGE OF DIALLO TELLI AND THE "FOULAH PLOT." THERE HAVE BEEN NO LARGE ARREST WAVES OR CONSPICUOUS INSTANCES OF ABUSE ON FORMER SCALE. THERE HAS BEEN AN TRICKLE OF PRISONER RELEASES. SOME 500 WERE REPORTEDLY RELEASED DURING MAY PARTY ANNIVERSARY BUT ONLY SMALL NUMBER REPORTEDLY WERE "POLITICALS". ONE GOG OFFICIAL HAS CLAIMED

THAT RELEASE OF ANOTHER 400 WAS ABORTED IN SEKOU TOURE'S
IRE OVER RECENT PUBLIC ATTACK ON GOG BY PSF OFFICIAL IN
FRANCE. TOURE HIMSELF REPEATED THIS STORY TO A WESTERN
AMBASSADOR. GUESSES OF NUMBER OF REMAINING POLITICAL
PRISONERS-- MOSTLY PERSONS IMPLICATED IN AFTERMATH OF

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CONAKR 01064 02 OF 02 201639Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----014282 201645Z /47

P 201550Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3155

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CONAKRY 1064

EXDIS

FOR AF/W THOMAS SMITH

TRAUMATIC PORTUGUESE INVASION OF 1970-- ARE ROUGHLY IN
2000 RANGE (LESS THAN IN CUBA, ROMANIA, OR YUGOSLAVIA,
FOR EXAMPLE). MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THESE
MAY BE MORE ACCURATELY CLASSED AS "COMMON" OR CIVIL
CRIMINALS. RECENT SOURCES INDICATE INDIVIDUAL PRISON
CAMPS FORMERLY ASSUMED TO BE ONLY "POLITICAL" MAY CON-
TAIN BOTH. GOG HAS FORCEFULLY SOUGHT A PRIVATE DIALOGUE
WITH USG, APPARENTLY CONCERNED LEST PUBLIC US OUTCRY
DAMAGE GUINEAN INTERESTS. SEKOU TOURE MADE RECENT VIOLENT
RHETORICAL OUTBURST AGAINST ALATA BOOK AND ALLEGA-
TIONS OF PSF OFFICIAL ABOUT REGIME PRACTICES.

6. IN BROACHING SUBJECT WITH PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI
(REFTEL G), DEPT. MIGHT USEFULLY OUTLINE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION'S GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH, ESPECIALLY
NOT AIMING AT ANY SINGLE COUNTRY; NOTE U.S. RENEWED
PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICAN APARTHEID AND EFFORTS TO IM-
PROVE LOT OF U.S. ETHNIC MINORITIES; NEED FOR CONSTRUCTIVE
PRIVATE DIALOGUE BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS, TAKING ACCOUNT OF
EACH OTHER'S INTERESTS; HOPE THAT PRISONER RELEASES AND
CLEMENCY WILL BE ENLARGED IN GUINEA IN ORDER FOR EX-
CELLENT EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE IN U.S. BUSINESS AND PUBLIC
CIRCLES; RELEASE OF SUCH NOTABLES AS CATHOLIC ARCH-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CONAKR 01064 02 OF 02 201639Z

BISHOP TCHIDIMBO, DIALLO TELLI, AND KARIM BANGOURA, LATTER WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN IN U.S. FOR HIS GOOD WORK IN GUINEA'S BEHALF FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD MAKE HEALTHY IMPRESSION; IT IS NOT USG INTENT TO PUT GUINEA ON SPORT OR CREATE CONFRONTATION OR TENSION; U.S. HOPES THAT GUINEAN ACTIONS WILL ENSUE WHICH MAY ENABLE U.S. TO WORK TO CALM MORE IMPETUOUS CIVIL-RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AND TO GET BETTER UP-TO-DATE PERSPECTIVE ON GUINEAN SITUATION; A CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION -- E.G. LISTS OF AMNESTIED GUINEAN POLITICAL PRISONERS -- WOULD BE GREAT HELP. WE APPRECIATE GUINEAN FEELINGS TOWARD THE INVASION OF GUINEA IN 1970 BUT FEEL GOG OUGHT TO CONSIDER PUBLICIZING NAMES OF THOSE RELEASED, GENERAL POLICY ON CLEMENCY, AND EVEN SITUATION OF THOSE STILL HELD; IF ANY TREND FAVORING HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS COULD BE DOCUMENTED, THIS WOULD HELP GUINEA IMMEASURABLY WITH U.S. CONGRESS AND PUBLIC.
MAINLAND

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CONAKR 01064 02 OF 02 201639Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, PRISONERS WELFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CONAKR01064
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770219-0824
Format: TEL
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770641/aaaabjkb.tel
Line Count: 200
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b358827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 CONAKRY 1013, 77 CONAKRY 1012, 77 PARIS 17316, 77 STATE 133840, 77 STATE 131943, 77 CONAKRY 990
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2099286
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION
TAGS: SHUM, GV
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b358827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009